

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 OPR-02 SCS-03 SAJ-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

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SUBJ: STUDENT DISTURBANCES CONTINUE

SUMMARY: SPORADIC INCIDENTS, USUALLY IN THE FORM OF BOYCOTTS OR MINOR CLASHES BETWEEN EXTREMIST GROUPS OF LEFTIST AND RIGHTIST STUDENTS, HAVE CONTINUED DURING RECENT WEEKS IN SEVERAL TURKISH CITIES.

THE INCIDENTS HAVE GENERALLY BEEN CONFINED TO CAMPUS AND STUDENT HOSTEL AREAS AND HAVE NOT RPT NOT BEEN PRINCIPALLY DIRECTED AGAINST THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT. HOWEVER, THE FACT OF STUDENT UNREST HAS CONTINUED TO BE A POLITICAL ISSUE BETWEEN THE DEMIREL GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION PARTIES. EXCEPT DURING THE SECRETARY'S VISIT HERE IN MAY, ANTI-AMERICANISM HAS NOT RPT NOT BEEN A SIGNIFICANT FACTOR IN THE INCIDENTS TO DATE. END SUMMARY.

1. A STUDENT BOYCOTT OF THE TROUBED MIDDLE EAST TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY (METU) IN ANKARA HAS CONTINUED INTERMITTENTLY. STUDENTS TEMPORARILY RETURNED TO CLASSES JUNE 12, GIVING THE UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION UNTIL JUNE 16 TO REPLY TO STUDENT DEMANDS. THE BOYCOTT BEGAN MAY 15, REPORTEDLY OVER THREE DEMANDS:

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A. AN EXTENSION OF THE SCHOOL TERM UNTIL THE END OF JULY TO

MAKE UP FOR CLASS TIME LOST TO BOYCOTTS;

B. A PROMISE BY THE UNIVERSITY NOT RPT NOT TO USE
DISCIPLINARY MEASURES FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES; AND

C. A REDUCTION IN THE NUMBER OF JANDARMA TROOPS STATIONED
ON THE CAMPUS.

2. COMMENT: AN ASSISTANT PROFESSOR AT METU TOLD US THAT LAST
MONTH ABOUT 300 FACULTY MEMBERS HAD SIGNED A PETITION OBJECTING
TO RECTOR TARIK SOMER'S INITIAL REFUSAL TO AGREE TO AN EXTENSION
OF THE SCHOOL TERM. WE HAVE ALSO HEARD SIMILAR REPORTS IN
RECENT MONTHS FROM YOUNG METU FACULTY MEMEBERS CRITICAL OF SOMER'S
HANDLING OF STUDENT UNREST.

3. IN ADDITION TO THE METU BOYCOTT, SPORADIC DISTURBANCES HAVE
CONTINUED AT OTHER CAMPUSES IN RECENT WEEKS. MINOR INCIDENTS
WERE REPORTED IN ANKARA MAY 7, 8, 9, AND 13, AND JUNE 2; IN
TRABZON MAY 7; IN MERSIN MAY 8; IN GAZIANTEP MAY 10 AND JUNE 5; IN
ELAZIG AND ERZINCAN MAY 11; IN SIVAS MAY 13; IN MARAS JUNE 8;
IN MANISA JUNE 9; IN ERZURUM JUNE 3 AND 5; IN TOKAT JUNE 7; AND
IN DIYARBAKIR JUNE 11. IN ANKARA ON MAY 31, AT THE CEREMONIES IN
HONOR OF YOUTH AND SPORTS DAY (WHICH WERE RAINED OUT MAY 19)
RIVAL GROUPS OF EXTREMIST STUDENT SHOUTED SLOGANS AT EACH OTHER AND
AFTERWARDS, OUTSIDE THE STADIUM, FIGHTING BROKE OUT WITH OVER 100
PERSONS TAKEN INTO CUSTODY. PRESIDENT FAHRI KORUTURK AND SEVERAL
OTHER TURKISH POLITICAL LEADERS WERE AMONG THE SPECTATORS.

4. MEANWHILE, STUDENT DISTURBANCES HAVE CONTINUED TO BE A
POLITICAL ISSUE BETWEEN THE DEMIREL GOVT AND THE OPPOSITION.
PRIMIN SULEYMAN DEMIREL, ADDRESSING HIS PARTY'S JOINT PARLIAMENTARY
GROUP JUNE 4, REPORTEDLY COMMENTED THAT IN THE 1971 CRISIS (WHICH
LED THE ARMED FORCES TO DEMAND HIS RESIGNATION AS PRIMIN) THE
"MARXIST FIGHT" HAD BEEN CARRIED ON IN THE UNIVERSITIES, BUT IT
HAS NOW BEEN "VERY MUCH REDUCED." REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP)
CHAIRMAN BULENT ECEVIT, SPEAKING IN ZONGULDAK JUNE 7, WAS QUOTED BY
THE PRESS AS SAYING THAT THE COUNTRY WAS BEING DRAGGED INTO ANARCHY
BY THE GOVT. FURTHERMORE, HE CONTINUED, BECAUSE THE GOVT WAS
ALLOWING YOUNG MEN TO FULFILL THEIR MILITARY OBLIGATIONS BY PER-
FORMING ALTERNATIVE SERVICE IN THE POLICE FORCES, THE "BLOODY-
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HANDED SS TROOPS OF THE NAZIS" WERE BEING RESURRECTED IN TURKEY.

5. COMMENT: THE SCHOOL YEAR AT MOST UNIVERSITIES WILL CLOSE IN LATE
JUNE OR JULY. AS STUDENTS FACE THE PROSPECT OF PREPARING FOR
FINAL EXAMINATIONS OR RISKING THE LOSS OF AN ENTIRE ACADEMIC
YEAR, IT IS LIKELY THAT DISTURBANCES WILL DECREASE IN COMING WEEKS.
HOWEVER, GIVEN THE LEGACY OF UNREST DURING THE CURRENT TERM,
THE PROSPECT IS THAT STUDENT INCIDENTS WILL RESUME WITH THE OPENING

OF CLASSES NEXT FALL, WHEN STUDENT POLITICAL FEELINGS PROBABLY WILL
BE SHARPENED BY THE PARTIAL PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS SCHEDULED FOR
OCTOBER.
BERGUS

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